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and I hope you will look at from the point of view that these, as I've said before, these are an independent group of people who most of them are employed. And when they are independent and have their own commission, they will be able to access funds and get answers from the federal government and from the state without going through a lot of different layers of bureaucracy. That's the way it is now, and that's why they feel trapped being in part of Health and Human Services. And I'll point out again, this bill, its predecessors, the (laugh) bills I've introduced, came...started out long before the merger at HHS. We have been trying to get this for a long time. It isn't anything new. It isn't any attempt to try to dismantle HHS. Look at it from an objective point of view that these people have and want their independence from that agency, so they can look at things from...within their own circle. And they aren't going to move and they aren't going to start coming over and asking for lots more money; they have the money and they have the federal funds that are available. And the federal government, the people who are in the agency in the federal government have told us that, in the states where they operate this way, employment goes up. There are all kinds of advantages for the blind people to have their own commission. I also want to say at this time how much help Dr. Pearl VanZandt has been at the office in...of the blind, as it stands now. She is very astute and knows what she's doing and has helped us a lot on understanding the funding. And, yes, Senator Wickersham, you assumed correctly, that was your answer. I guess I should have spelled it out a little better. But at any rate, I hope that all of you will be listening to what I am saying here this morning and just vote to move this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Further debate? Senator Tyson, followed by Senators Raikes, Thompson, Bromm and Lynch. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, if I were going to sell an idea, this would be a nice one, because I wouldn't have to prove one single assertion made. I again call your attention, as I did on General File, that the testimony given to the committee on this showed no particulars. I checked with the Ombudsman's Office, a couple of complaints, and the comment, this was not an agency complained about. We